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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION EA-19

INFO SAL-01 SAH-03 IO-21 AID-30 GPM-03 SC-01 RSC-01 USIA-12 H-02
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Lara Lyubera DATE 1/20/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
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R 251125Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9602

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 9533

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: JOHNNY APPLE STORY ON VOTER TURNOUT

REF: A) STATE 58490
B) SAIGON 9193
C) SAIGON 9195
D) SAIGON 9197
E) SAIGON 9198
F) SAIGON 9201
G) SAIGON 9305

1. REFTEL A) REPORTS JOHNNY APPLE STORY IN OCTOBER 23 NY TIMES AND ELSEWHERE TO EFFECT THAT "AMERICAN ANALYSTS" TERMED ELECTION TURNOUT "NO GREATER THAN 70

(1)

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PERCENT." APPLE REPORTS THE GVN VOTER TURNOUT FIGURES WERE EXAGGERATED AND THAT AT ONE POINT GVN FIGURES SHOWED 76.4 PERCENT TURNOUT BUT THAT "INFORMAL TALLY" AT US MISSION "INDICATED OFFICIAL FIGURES MIGHT HAVE BEEN INFLATED."

2. WE ARE UNAWARE OF WHAT SOURCE, IF ANY, APPLE HAD FOR THESE STATEMENTS, BUT THEY ARE FALSE. ONLY INFORMAL

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TALLY IN US MISSION OF VOTER TURNOUT FIGURES OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE WAS THAT CONDUCTED BY POLITICAL SECTION, AND OUR FIGURES WERE BASED ON TURNOUT POSTED AT SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND AVAILABLE TO PRESS AND PUBLIC AS TO US. THESE FIGURES WERE REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT AS OF 10:00, 12:00 AND 14:00 (REF B THROUGH F), AND THEY PROVIDE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR APPLE'S STATEMENTS.

3. WE IN FACT BELIEVE THAT THIS ELECTION WAS CONDUCTED WITH PROPRIETY AND THAT VERY LITTLE MONKEYING WITH THE FIGURES TOOK PLACE. AS REPORTED REF G, IN LONG AN THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN INITIAL TENDENCY FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS TO INFLATE TURNOUT FIGURES BUT IF SO IT WAS

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9533 C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUICKLY CURBED. NO OTHER INDICATIONS OF TAMPERING WITH TURNOUT FIGURES HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION AND WE BELIEVE THE FINAL TURNOUT OF 72,LZWGERZ# IS A FAIR REFLECTION OF VOTER PARTICIPATION ON THAT DAY.

4. AT HIS REGULAR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR SELECTED MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES OCTOBER 25, ZORTHIAN POINTED OUT ABOVE AND EMPHASIZED THAT MISSION HAS NO CAUSE TO DOUBT VOTER TURNOUT FIGURES AS PRESENTED BY GVN.

BUNKER

AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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